

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TORONT 01793 182256Z

61

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TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJECT: LABOR'S DAY OF PROTEST - ONTARIO WRAP UP

REF: TORONTO 1765

1. ACCORDING TO CLC, SOME 450,000 ONTARIO WORKERS STAYED OFF THE JOB ON LABOR'S DAY OF PROTEST OCTOBER 14. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS IN MAJOR CITIES IN THE TORONTO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

2. TORONTO - PROTEST WAS NOT PARTICULARLY VISIBLE AS TRANSPORT AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES CONTINUED TO FUNCTION NORMALLY. NEVERTHELESS, ACCORDING TO UNION SOURCES "SEVERAL HUNDRED" INDUSTRIAL PLANTS SHUT DOWN AND 200,000 WORKERS WERE OFF THE JOB. AUTO,

STEEL AND RUBBER INDUSTRIES PARTICULARLY HARD-HIT, ALTHOUGH UAW FAILED TO CLOSE DOWN TWO AIRCRAFT PLANTS IN THE AREA. AIB CHIEF PEPIN SPOKE AT A MAJOR HOTEL AND SURPRISINGLY THERE WERE NO PICKETS OR PROTESTORS IN EVIDENCE. PROTEST RALLY TURNOUT ESTIMATE LOWERED FROM 8000 TO MAXIMUM 7500 AND PROBABLY 5000.

3. HAMILTON - SOME 4500 REPORTEDLY PARTICIPAED IN RALLY ADDRESSED BY WILLIAM MAHONEY, USW LEADER. ALTHOUGH ESTIMATED 20,000 FAILED TO REPORT TO WORK, ONLY FIRESTONE RUBBER PLANT COMPLETELY SHUT DOWN. WESTINGHOUSE AND INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER
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PAGE 02 TORONT 01793 182256Z

REMAINED OPEN ALTHOUGH FEW WORKERS SHOWED UP. ALL HAMILTON HIGH

SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAMES CANCELLED OWNING TO ABSENCE OF MAINTENANCE STAFF.

3. KITCHENER-WATERLOO - RALLY AND PARADE ATTRACTED 400 PARTICIPANTS. ABOUT 3000 STAYED OFF JOB (LESS THAN ONE THIRD THE NUMBER EXPEDTED). MAJOR PARTICIPATION IN WALKOUT WAS BY UAW AND USW.

4. LONDON - TRANSPORT, GARBAGE, UTILITIES AND POSTAL SERVICE DISRUPTED BY WALKOUT. MAJOR PLANTS STAYED OPEN, BUT ATTENDANCE VERY LOW.

5. NIAGARA - ABOUT ONE HALF OF DOCTORS IN NIAGARA FALLS CLOSED OFFICES TO PROTEST LAST YEARS CHARGES BY TRUDEAU ABOUT DOCTORS INCOMES. MAIL SERVICE DISRUPTED IN ST. CATHARINES.

6. OSHAWA - GM AND CHRYSLER PRODUCTION LINES SHUT DOWN, ALTHOUGH PLANTS REMAINED OPEN. RALLY ATTENDANCE OF 600 WAS ONLY 15 PERCENT OF WHAT WAS EXPECTED. THREE LARGE STEEL AND TWO RUBBER PLANTS CLOSED. SOME DISRUPTION IN MAIL DELIVERIES BUT OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES NORMAL. ONLY ONE CONSTRUCTION SITE SHUT DOWN.

7. SAULT ST. MARIE - OPERATIONS AT ALGOMA STEEL NORMAL WITH ONLY ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF WORK FORCE OUT. WEYERHAEUSER PLYWOOD MILL CLOSED.

8. SUDBURY - PROTEST PERHAPS MOST SUCCESSFUL HERE. INCO OPERATIONS AT VIRTUAL STANDSTILL, BUT FALCONBRIDGE SUFFERED ONLY 35 PERCENT ABSENTEEISM. 4000 PARTICIPATED IN RALLY. TRANSPORT, CITY, REGIONAL AND POSTAL WORKERS WERE OUT AND MANY RETAIL STORES CLOSED.

9. EMPLOYER REACTIONS - METRO AREA EMPLOYERS GENERALLY WILL WAIT UNTIL EFFECT OF PROTEST ON OPERATIONS CAN BE ASSESSED BEFORE DECIDING ON ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IF ANY. NOTABLE EXCEPTION IS DOMGLAS, THE COMPANY INVOLVED IN THE CASE IN WHICH THE ONTARIO LABOR RELATIONS BOARD RULED THE STRIKE ILLEGAL (REFTTEL) DOMGLAS SPOKESMAN SAID "WE WILL HOLD THE UNION RESPONSIBLE FOR LOSSES." AND "A DAY WITHOUT PAY" FOR THE 80 PERCENT OF CANADAIN GE WORKFORCE THAT STAYED OFF THE JOB.

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PAGE 03 TORONT 01793 182256Z

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